

Appl. No. 10/663,580  
Amdt. dated July 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of March 7, 2006

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring to non-surgical treatment of Pectus Carinatum, orthotic methods with external compression systems have also been applied. These comprise the use during several years, especially during body growth period, of structures that are applied to the chest and apply pressure on the proceeding areas. The amount of pressure applied may vary. However, the development of these procedures has got many difficulties. Long-term use is costly, complex and troublesome for patients. Although in some cases there have been good results, only partial improvements are usually found.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An apparatus for the correction of congenital wall chest deformities, such as "Pectus Carinatum" in its various types and variants, is proposed, comprising: a bar with a flattened cross-section, having a minimum bending strength according to the values determined by ASTM F-382-95, ~~bar-stabilizing~~ and fixation plates having a slot at the center portion so as to fit the end of the bar, and peripheral holes for fixation to bone parts. The bar ends comprise planar grooves defining a wall thickness substantially equal to the height of the plate slot. The groove wall has aligned holes in order to form the respective plate and by using screws, a removable fixed attachment allowing bar axial registration.